

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication in the Final Rejection that claims 21 and 22 are allowed and claims 14-16, 25, and 26 are directed to allowable subject matter.

The Applicant wishes to thank the examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicant's representative during a telephone interview conducted on October 2, 2006. The discussion of the interview pertained to the amendment of claim 19, described above, which the examiner agreed to enter upon submission.

The features of allowable claims 14 and 25 have been integrated into their respective base claims 12 and 23. Similarly, the subject matter of allowable claim 14 has been integrated into independent claim 19.

Claims 14 and 25 have been canceled. Claims 15 and 26 have been amended to depend directly from their respective base claims, and claim 20 has been amended in accordance with the changes made to base claim 19. Claims 12, 19, and 21 have been further amended to overcome the indefiniteness rejections.

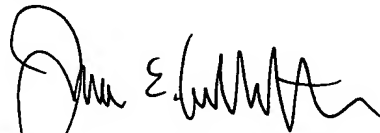
Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that the applied indefiniteness and art-based rejections have been

overcome, and allowance of independent claims 12, 19, and 23 and all claims dependent therefrom is warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James E. Ledbetter', with a stylized, cursive script.

James E. Ledbetter
Registration No. 28,732

Date: October 6, 2006
JEL/DWW/att

Attorney Docket No. L9289.02125
STEVENS DAVIS, MILLER & MOSHER, L.L.P.
1615 L Street, N.W., Suite 850
P.O. Box 34387
Washington, D.C. 20043-4387
Telephone: (202) 785-0100
Facsimile: (202) 408-5200